



**Resolution 04/20-21 Policy 1321R – Emergency
District Reopening – Suspension of Policy**

**Policy No. 1321R based on
BOARD RESOLUTION No. 04/20-21**

WHEREAS, Chapter 28A.320 RCW authorizes local school boards to govern their respective districts, including adopting, revising, and suspending local board policies;

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, the Washington Governor Jay Inslee declared a state of emergency in all counties of our state under Chapters 38.08, 38.52 and 43.06 RCW, and directed implementation of the plans and procedures of the state’s Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan in response to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19);

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, Governor Inslee ordered closure of all public and private K-12 schools in Washington State until April 24, 2020 to contain the spread of COVID-19 and on April 6, 2020, directed that school buildings remain closed from providing traditional, in-person instruction throughout the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year;

WHEREAS the Mount Vernon School Board (the Board) has adopted Policy 3432 – Emergencies, which acknowledges total and partial school closure in response to a pandemic/epidemic and designates the District Superintendent or a designee to act as a liaison for the school district to ensure the health and safety of students, staff, and the community;

WHEREAS, RCW 28A.150.290 authorizes the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to make rules and regulations as necessary to carry out its statutory duties in unforeseen conditions and on June 11, 2020, the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction issued official guidance for reopening Washington schools for the 2020-2021 school year, which included sections on health and safety from the Department of Health and the Department of Labor and Industries, specifying employee and student safety requirements for reopening schools during the COVID-19 pandemic and requiring school boards to adopt and submit reopening plans for the 2020-2021 school year;

WHEREAS the Board has adopted a reopening plan for the 2020-2021 school year, which plan addressed the mandatory health requirements, statutory education requirements, and additional expectations, as identified by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction’s June 11, 2020 official guidance for reopening Washington schools.

WHEREAS the actual reopening of district schools, as well as the ability to maintain a specific model of instruction, is subject to the changing health conditions in our county, which could prevent the district from implementing its opening plan or require the district to return to remote learning;

WHEREAS on August 26, 2020, the Governor issued Proclamation 20-70, amending his February 29, 2020 Proclamation of Emergency, noting the need “to extend all of the prohibitions and each expiration date therein until the state of emergency is rescinded, except to allow schools to re-open as provided in Proclamation 20-09.2 and subject to the requirements of the Re-opening K-12 Fall 2020-2021 Guidance document, found [here](#), that allows local health departments and school districts to decide if and how they will allow students to return to the classroom;”

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that until December 31, 2020, the Board hereby suspends provisions of its board policies and/or whole policies, as identified by the District Superintendent or designee, if such suspension is necessary to implement the adopted reopening plan or is necessary for ongoing compliance with written guidance from the Department of Health, the Department of Labor and Industries, or the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction relating to safely reopening schools while containing COVID-19. The District Superintendent will timely report to and consult with the Board, as feasible and appropriate, regarding efforts to implement the reopening plan and the limitations thereon;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that execution of this Resolution is conclusive evidence of the Board’s approval of this action and of the authority granted herein. The Board warrants that it has, and at the time of this action had, full power and lawful authority to adopt this instrument.